

REMARKS

In the December 15, 2006 Office Action, claims 10, 12-14, 18, 19, 21-23, and 26 stand rejected in view of prior art, while claim 15 was withdrawn for being directed to a non-elected embodiment. No other objections or rejections were made in the Office Action.

Status of Claims and Amendments

In response to the December 15, 2006 Office Action, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. None of the claims is being amended by the current Response. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the examination of this application. Thus, claims 10, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-23, and 26 are pending, with claims 10, 18, 19, 21, and 26 being the only independent claims. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested in view of above amendments and the following comments.

Interview Summary

On March 14, 2007, the undersigned conducted a personal interview with Examiner Phan, who is in charge of the above-identified patent application. Applicants wish to thank Examiner Phan for the opportunity to discuss the above-identified patent application during the Interview of March 14, 2007.

Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, claims 10, 12-14, and 18-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,365,139 (Kasuga et al.). Further, on pages 5-7 of the Office Action, claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasuga et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,603,236 (Nagasaka). In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and have included comments to support the traversals.

Claims 10, 18, 19, and 21

Claim 10 recites timing device having an antenna, a communication unit having a receiving unit and current time counter unit, and a drive unit having a piezoelectric actuator and mechanical structure. Claim 18 similarly recites communication means having receiving means and current time counter means, and time display means having a piezoelectric actuator. Claim 19 recites a method that employs a control unit having a current time counter unit. Claim 21 recites a method that uses a control unit having a receiving unit and current time counter unit.

Claims 10, 18, 19, and 21 recite that the receiving unit, receiving means, control unit, or current time counter receives time information at a specific cycle from the outside. In contrast to this recited limitation, Applicants respectfully assert Kasuga discloses a receiving unit, identified as 853 in the Office Action, but is silent with regards to receiving time information at a specific cycle.

Claims 10, 18, 19, and 21 recited that the current time counter unit or current time counter means updates the current time information using information received by the receiving unit as a reference. As seen in Figure 32 of Kasuga et al., Applicants respectfully assert that Kasuga et al. disclose a current time counter unit, identified as 831 in the Office Action, that is not connected to the receiving unit 853. Thus, in contrast to this recited limitation, Applicants respectfully assert that the current time counter unit of Kasuga et al. is incapable of receiving time information from the receiving unit 853.

Applicants respectfully assert that since these limitations are not realized by the invention of Kasuga et al. the remaining limitations that depend on the aforementioned ones cannot be realized by Kasuga et al. Even further, Applicants respectfully assert that the referenced invention of Kasuga et al. relates to an electronic apparatus with a motor that

vibrates to inform a user that information has been entered and not to update time (see column 17, lines 7-11, and lines 53-56 of Kasuga et al.).

Further, Applicants respectfully assert that no other embodiment of Kasuga et al. discloses receiving an external signal. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that even if the referenced embodiment of Kasuga et al. were combined with any of the others, it would still fail to disclose or to suggest a timing device that updates or corrects time by an external signal.

Claims 26 and 13

Independent claim 26 and depend claim 13 recite a piezoelectric actuator having a contact section provided on a longitudinal tip of an oscillating plate. Referring to Figure 25 of Kasuga et al., Applicants respectfully assert that the oscillating plate disclosed by Kasuga et al., identified in the Office Action as 323, fails to contact anything at a longitudinal or lengthwise tip. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that Kasuga et al. fail to disclose a piezoelectric actuator having a contact section on a longitudinal tip as recited.

Applicants respectfully assert that the aforementioned arrangements are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. It is well settled in U.S. patent law that the mere fact that the prior art can be modified does not make the modification obvious, unless the prior art suggests the desirability of the modification. Accordingly, the prior art of record lacks any suggestion or expectation of success for combining the patents to create the Applicants' unique arrangement.

Moreover, Applicants believe that the dependent claims are also allowable over the prior art of record in that they depend from independent claims 10 and 21, and therefore are allowable for the reasons stated above. Also, the dependent claims are further allowable because they include additional limitations. Thus, Applicants believe that since the prior art

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of record does not disclose or suggest the invention as set forth in independent claims 10 and 21, the prior art of record also fails to disclose or suggest the inventions as set forth in the dependent claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn in view of the above comments and amendments.

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In view of the foregoing amendment and comments, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 10, 12-15, 18, 19, 21-23, and 26 are now in condition for allowance.

Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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